

# WILD FLOWER NEWS

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY, A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 00-05

September-October 2001

## ANNUAL MEETING SEPT 16

Come to the PWWS annual picnic meeting at 1 p.m. at the Manassas area home of Marie and Paul Davis on Sunday, September 16. Their large, mostly woodland garden was featured on the spring garden tour this year.

Please bring a salad, main dish, vegetable, or dessert to share at the potluck picnic. PWWS will furnish beverages, utensils, and paper products.

### Schedule:

1 p.m. - Potluck Picnic (held rain or shine)

2:30 p.m. - Chapter Business meeting:

President's Report

Election of Nominating Committee

Members

Vote on Proposed Budget

3 p.m. Plant Swap- Bring plant(s) to share.

Afterward, enjoy a garden tour and/or wildflower identification walk.

The three nominees for the nominating committee are Jeanne Endrikat, Diane Flaherty, and Martha Slover. The proposed annual budget is printed on page three.

Directions: From Manassas, go south on Dumfries Rd. (Rt. 234). After the Wellington Giant, turn right at the light onto Hastings Dr. Go .3 mi. And turn left onto Lucasville Rd. Go 1.9 miles and turn right onto Moor Green Drive. Go .5 mi. to 9900 on the right.

From the east, go north on Dumfries Rd. (Route 234) and turn left at the Wellington Giant onto Hastings Dr. Follow above directions.

For further information, call Marie at 703-361-1626 or Nancy Vehrs at 703-368-2898.

## FLORA PROJECT PROGRESSES

The Foundation of the *Flora of Virginia* Project, Inc is now the Virginia non-stock corporation that will carry out the work of producing the *Flora of Virginia*. This is the first step toward achieving federal 501(c)(3), non-profit, status for the project. The Board of Directors of this foundation assembled on August 25 in Richmond for its first meeting. The Board elected officers, approved bylaws, and established committees and assignments.

Members and their affiliations are as follows: Nicky Staunton, VNPS; Marion Lobstein, Virginia Academy of Sciences; Donna Ware, Virginia Botanical Associates; Chris Ludwig and Tom Smith, Virginia Natural Heritage Program; Mike Lipford, The Nature Conservancy; Chip Morgan, Wintergreen Nature Foundation; and Mike Garson, attorney.

Chris Ludwig was elected President and Director, Chip Morgan elected Vice-President, and Mike Garson elected Secretary. The treasurer will be appointed later.

PWWS recently pledged a donation of \$1000 to the project. Past and present moral support of the *Flora of Virginia* Project by PWWS members has been critical for the project to reach this point. VNPS and its chapters form an essential partner in the efforts to produce the *Flora of Virginia*.

For more information about the project, visit the website: [www/vnps.org/vaflora.htm](http://www/vnps.org/vaflora.htm).

- Marion Lobstein

(Note: Currently project donations can be sent to Flora of Virginia Project, UVa-Wise Foundation, Wise, VA 24293.)



## From the President - Nancy Vehrs

Summer's over. The days are shorter, school has resumed, and traffic is heavier. At least the bright yellow of tickseed sunflowers (*Bidens aristosa*) provide much cheer as they bloom prolifically in area meadows and remaining natural areas. I even have a large specimen in front of my foundation plantings in the front yard - maybe a little out of place, but a welcome burst of color in that part of the yard this time of year.

Since we try to alternate between east and west for vacations, it was time for Warren and me to return to the west for a long vacation in August. The destination was northwestern Washington State this time. We visited North Cascades National Park, Olympic National Park, and even took the ferry across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Victoria, British Columbia.

Hiking in the Cascades, "America's Alps," is inspiring; one just disregards the black flies and concentrates on the enchanting wildflowers and magnificent views of mountain peaks, glaciers, and alpine lakes and ponds. I fell in love with rose-purple colored monkey flowers (*Mimulus*) that bloomed in the high meadows along the numerous streams that drained the snow and glaciers. Other colorful, memorable blooms included various paintbrushes, asters, phlox, penstemons, lupines (mostly past), and the wonderfully ubiquitous fireweed. The campground where we stayed was in a virgin forest with enormous Douglas firs. Even though the weather was dry, it had a rain forest appearance with moss hanging from the understory trees (vine and big leaf maple, alder, etc.) and huge ferns filling the forest floor.

Did I mention RAIN FOREST? Well, Olympic National Park on the Olympic Peninsula lived up to its billing as a temperate rain forest. Moss was everywhere - and there were so many different types and all were delightfully soft and spongy. The clouds and rain soaked in the area a

lot of the time we were there, but we did experience some great views of the peaks from an area called Hurricane Ridge. We also visited the coast, where huge logs that had washed down the rivers littered the rocky beach.

Having heard about the magnificent Butchart Gardens in Victoria, we decided to take the 90-minute ferry ride to Vancouver Island and stay a few days to explore. The 50-acre gardens, formerly part of an old limestone quarry, were impressive, but they were not native plant gardens. We did see some impressive cardinal flower and Joe Pye weed amidst colorful annuals. The eastern side of Vancouver Island is very mild and an excellent place to garden. I could write more about the trip, but suffice it to say, we took pictures and will share them with the society . . .

I hope to see many of you at the annual meeting on Sept. 16. The eight-acre Davis property offers something for everyone, great wildflower gardens for the gardeners among us and nature trails for the wildflower botanists.

- Nancy

**WILD NEWS** is published six times a year by the Prince William Wildflower Society, a Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 20108-0083. Permission is given to use material with credit to source.

VNPS home page: <http://www.vnps.org>.

<b>President</b>	Nancy Vehrs, 703-368-2898, nvehrs@attglobal.net
<b>VP/Publicity</b>	Leo Stoltz, 703-791-6175, osamukato@aol.com
<b>Secretary</b>	June Najjum, 703-494-1891
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marie Davis, 703-361-1626
<b>Botany</b>	Marion Lobstein, 703-536-7150
<b>Conservation</b>	Wendy Pierce, 703-754-2932
<b>Education</b>	Kim Hosen, 703-491-8406
<b>Historian</b>	Robyn Thoreson, 703-335-1015
<b>Hospitality</b>	Warren Ryder, 703-368-2898
<b>Imm. Past Pres</b>	Gina Yurkonis, 540-347-1027
<b>Membership</b>	OPEN
<b>Programs</b>	Charles Smith, 703-361-5125
<b>Plant Sale</b>	Nancy Arrington, 703-368-8431
<b>Refreshments</b>	Joann Krumviade, 703-938-4378
<b>Registry Site</b>	Claudia Thompson-Deahl, 703-754-9235
<b>Editor</b>	Nancy Vehrs, 703-368-2898
<b>Original Artwork</b>	by Nicky Staunton, 703-368-9803

Deadline for the Nov-Dec issue is Nov. 1, 2001. Mail information to Nancy Vehrs at 8318 Highland St., Manassas, VA 20110-3671 or send email to [nvehrs@attglobal.net](mailto:nvehrs@attglobal.net).

## Budget Proposed for 2002

PWWS Treasurer Marie Davis has proposed the following budget for the next fiscal year. Members will vote to approve the budget at the annual meeting on September 16.

<b>PROPOSED FY 2002 BUDGET</b>	
(November 1, 2001-October 31, 2002)	
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Dues	\$ 1,000
Plant Sale	2,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	
Postage	\$ 750
Printing	950
Gifts and Honoraria	450
Programs and Speakers	500
Sales Tax	125
Special Events	725
Plant Sale	
Garden Tours	
Annual Meeting	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>

## Explore Local Streams

Take a closer look at nature in our own backyard by exploring Catharpin Run and Bull Run at family programs sponsored by the Piedmont Environmental Council, Audubon Naturalist Society, Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Prince William County Department of Public Works.

**Catharpin Run, September 15** - Bring the family and examine Catharpin Run and the wildlife that lives in this area. Catharpin Run crosses northern Prince William County from Bull Run Mountain to Bull Run. It is an important sub-basin on the Occoquan Reservoir and currently has good water quality. Increasing

development in the watershed could threaten Catharpin Run's water quality in the future.

**Bull Run, October 27** - Bull Run forms the boundary between northern Prince William County and Loudoun and Fairfax Counties and is best known for being the namesake of two famous Civil War battles. However, it is also important for supporting much wildlife and feeding into the Occoquan Reservoir that provides local drinking water. Come explore the northern reaches of the stream at a site in Loudoun along the Prince William border.

Program participants should wear comfortable shoes suitable for hiking and bring binoculars, camera, and extra water to drink for these events scheduled from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

To register and receive directions to the meeting sites, contact Kim Hosen, Piedmont Environmental Council, 703-367-0069, [khosen@pecva.org](mailto:khosen@pecva.org), or Cliff Fairweather, Audubon Naturalist Society, 703-803-8400, [cliff@audubonnaturalist.org](mailto:cliff@audubonnaturalist.org).

## Garden Tours a Big Hit

This year's summer garden tours, a first for PWWS, were a big success with a large and enthusiastic turnout of both members and the general public. Many thanks to Nancy Arrington, Kathy and Don Ehrenberger, and Warren Ryder and Nancy Vehrs for sharing their gardens on that fine summer afternoon. Thanks also go to Kim Largen, April Pilhorn, Mary Sigl, Nicky Staunton, Carol Thompson, and Gina Yurkonis for providing refreshments or serving as hostesses at the gardens.

Nicky Staunton took photographs during the tour and some representative pictures are now posted on the VNPS website at [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org).

For this type of activity to continue, PWWS needs your support. If you would like to share your garden, or know of a member's garden that would be a good candidate for the tour, please contact Nancy Vehrs at 703-368-2898, [nvehrs@attglobal.net](mailto:nvehrs@attglobal.net).

## Fall Plant Sale at Green Spring Gardens Park Sept 22

The Potowmack Chapter of the VNPS will offer native plants for sale at a fall garden day event on Saturday, September 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens Park. Other native plant vendors as well as purveyors of mums, fall perennials, cacti, shrubs, will all have their stock for sale. Staff horticulturists and volunteers will answer your plant and landscaping questions and the historic manor house, full of art and garden gifts, will be open.

Green Spring Gardens Park is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. For further information, contact the special projects coordinator at 703-642-5173.

## Assess Your Habitat

The National Wildlife Federation recently launched a new feature on the NWF's eNature website. It enables you to assess your yard (or balcony, or workplace, or a local park, etc.) for its wildlife habitat value, and then provides tools through which you can plan out improvements to the habitat area, upload your photographs, receive lists of wildlife and native plants local to your zip code, add entries of the wildlife and native plants that live in your yard, and much more. Check it out at [www.enature.com](http://www.enature.com).

### October Board Meeting

The PWWS Board will next meet on October 15 at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call Nancy Vehrs at 703-368-2898.

## July Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Charles introduced our speaker for the evening, Norie Burnet from the Richmond area. She shared information on "moss gardening." She set up numerous "hands on" displays and presented slides of her yard "Eden Woods" which contains extensive carpets of moss in the landscape. We delighted in her story of how she revolutionized her thinking about moss, due to the encouragement of her young son. Now she weeds "grass" out of her moss. Some of the benefits of gardening with moss: 1. Needs no fertilization 2. Aids in erosion control 3. Needs no aeration 4. Needs no mowing 5. Can grow in bogs and hard pan clay, and 6. Covers roots in the shade.

Norie Burnet suggests these companion plants for moss gardening: hostas, dwarf crested iris, tulips, wood hyacinth, epimedium, primulas, spiderwort, Japanese iris, astilbe, caladium, impatiens, bugbane, and liriope. Wildflower companion plants include: mayapples, toad trillium, wild ginger, ferns, phlox, forget-me-nots, bluets, trout lily, foam flower, violets, Dutchman's breeches, sleeping beauty, marsh marigolds, coral bells, and toothwort. Suggested companion shrubs include sweet shrubs, wild azaleas, and viburnums.

Tips for the moss gardener were discussed:

1. There are several different kinds of mosses with different characteristics, so choose one to meet your needs
2. Dividing moss can be done with an old serrated knife and a spatula.
3. Don't plant moss in a heavy traffic area.
4. Planting suggestion: Prepare the new surface by chopping the ground, laying out the moss, watering it, and pressing down hard with your foot - then be patient!
5. Seasonal leaf clean up should be done with a leaf-blower, not a rake (which tears into the moss).
6. Dipping statuary in water where algae are abundant will give moss a head start on the surface area.

(Continued on next page)

(Minutes-continued from previous page)

We were all impressed that there are 1500 kinds of moss in North America. Norie Burnet suggested that we go to our yards and identify the plants that are coming up in our moss beds because sometimes moss is an excellent incubator of "volunteers" in the garden!

Wendy Pierce and June Najjum provided refreshments for the break at 8:35 p.m., which followed the presentation. After enjoying the displays, and sharing thoughts about moss gardening, the meeting reconvened at 9 p.m.

A motion was made by Martha Slover to approve the minutes of the May meeting, as printed in the *Wild News*. Helen Walter seconded it, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

The treasurer's report was next. Marie Davis announced that the balance was \$5,864.17.

Nancy Vehrs reminded everyone of the summer garden tour coming up on July 22. A sign up sheet was passed around for various volunteer duties. Nancy Vehrs brought the goldenrod flyers for members to pass to friends, so that they could locate the gardens of Arrington, Ehrenberger, and Ryder-Vehrs.

It was announced that June Najjum received an environmental award from the Prince William Clean Community Council. It was for her efforts to schedule "litter education" presentations to all of the children of Antietam Elementary School.

A free pass was offered to anyone who would like to attend the Irvine Nature Science Center annual seminar and plant sale on August 25. Members must agree to write an article for the *Wild News* in exchange for the free pass.

The Ben Lomond Rose Garden is open again. It had been closed during chemical treatment for a rose disease. Members are encouraged to view the lovely roses and companion plants.

The Nominating Committee (Wendy Pierce, Leo Stoltz, Jeanne Fowler, Helen Walter, and Nancy Vehrs) is seeking three non-board members for the next two-year term.

Everyone should mark his/her calendar for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 16 at the

home of Marie and Paul Davis. A potluck dinner will be served, with plenty of garden space to roam afterwards on the Davis's eight acres.

Marion Lobstein gave her *Flora* update. Everyone shared in Marion's joy when she pronounced July 17 as the first day of the newly established "Foundation of the *Flora of Virginia* Project." She was grateful for the generous donations by Prince William Wildflower Society, the Potowmack Chapter, and the John Clayton Chapter. Nicky Staunton, PWWS member and president of the VNPS, will be on the board of directors. Now others will be taking some of the burden away from Marion's shoulders!

Other announcements:

- The nature trail at NVCC needs volunteers to do some clean up garden chores.
- The November meeting will feature Chris Strand's talk on "Witch Hazel." (From Green Spring Gardens)

The door prizes were obtained at the plant rescue in Herndon and one was donated by Amy Hamilton. The lucky winners of the plants and a pair of gardener socks were Mickey Sullivan, Leo Stoltz (promised to wear socks at other meetings), Jeanne Endrikat, and Barbara Wright. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

-June Najjum, Secretary

Attendance:

Nancy Arrington, Tom Attanaro, Peggy Bruhn, Lina Burton, Caroline Calder, Tiana Camfiord, Charlotte Cochard, Toni Crouch, Janie Darby, Marie Davis, Jeanne Endrikat, Diane Flaherty, Jeanne Fowler, Amy Hamilton, Carol Helfand, Renee Holiday, Judy Jellen, Margaret Lewis, Marion Lobstein, Barbara Maloney, June Najjum, Carol Nelson, Julie Newman, Wendy Pierce, April Pilhorn, Helen Rawls, Nanette Ross, Warren Ryder, Mary Sigl, Martha Slover, Charles Smith, Nicky Staunton, Linda & Leo Stoltz, Mickey Sullivan, Carol Thompson, Robyn Thoreson, Nancy Vehrs, Helen Walter, Helen Ward, Barbara Wright, Gina Yurkonis, Judy Zellers

## Upcoming Events at Blandy

Consider a visit to the State Arboretum at Blandy for the following autumn events:

Fern Program, October 6, 10 a.m. Join Graham Stevens for a journey into the fascinating world of ferns. Learn some tips for identification and find out about varieties appropriate for the home landscape. \$6 adults, \$3 children, \$15 per family. Meet at Information Pavilion, no reservations needed.

ArborFest, October 14, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Celebrate fall at your State Arboretum at ArborFest, the Arboretum's free annual open house. Hay rides, apple tasting, guided tours, bird walks, water gardening demonstration, Apple Capital Chorus, Amazing Hay-Bale Maze, autumn art exhibit, plant sales, food concessions, and more!

For information on these events, please call 540-837-1758, extension 0.

## Help at Creek Clean Up

Join environmentalists at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 22 to clean up Powell's Creek in the eastern end of the County. The site begins along Route 1 at Powell's Creek. For more information and directions to the starting location, contact Kim Hosen at 703-367-0069 (w), 703-491-8406 (h); email: [watershed@knight-hub.com](mailto:watershed@knight-hub.com) or Nancy Finucan at 703-361-1710 (w), email: [nancyfinucan@pwsacd.org](mailto:nancyfinucan@pwsacd.org).

This clean up is sponsored by the Friends of Prince William Watersheds in cooperation with the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District's Adopt a Stream Program and the Clean Virginia Waterway's Clean Up Program.

## Virginia Cooperative Extension Lawn Programs

Does your lawn lead to the Bay? Could you or your neighbors be unintentionally polluting the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay through improper or careless fertilization and pesticide use in your yards? If you need a lawn, let the Virginia Cooperative Extension help you achieve a great lawn that protects water quality too. And let's not even mention all the other critters that are affected! Join Extension staff at free area seminars to discuss soil testing, aerification, overseeding, weed control, and proper fall fertilization.

September 15, 9 a.m.-12 noon, McCoart Building, 1 County Complex Drive, Prince William

September 22, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Southern States Cooperative, 9751 Center Street, Manassas  
Call 703-792-6285 for further information.

## Collect Seeds and Pot Up Trees/Shrubs Now

As flowers fade and seeds ripen, consider collecting the seeds to start plants for the annual plant sale in the spring. Many seeds benefit from a cold, moist period (stratification) so they can be sown in a garden bed this fall. Plants like purple coneflowers, Joe Pye weed, and New York ironweed all can be propagated this way. Seeds from liatris and cardinal flower also need a cold period, but are best kept in the refrigerator for several months and sown in late winter or early spring. For more information on seed collection and propagation, refer to *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers* by Harry R. Phillips.

Plant sale tree and shrub coordinator Charles Smith says that now is a great time to dig up and pot your small native trees and shrubs to offer at the spring sale. Be sure to keep them in a protected location over the winter.

## PAWPAW

**Marion Lobstein**  
**Associate Professor of Biology**  
**Northern Virginia Community College-**  
**Manassas Campus**

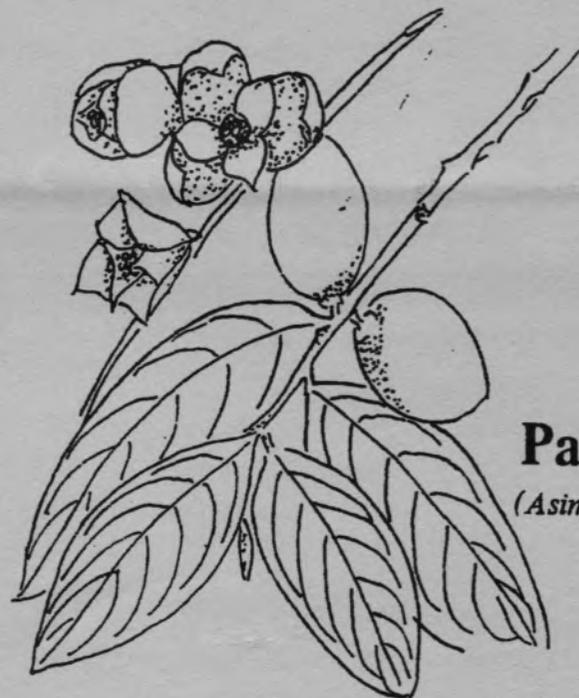
"Pickin' up pawpaws, puttin' 'em in my pocket, way down yonder in the pawpaw patch" is a rhyme that many of us remember from childhood. Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*, is one of our loveliest native fruit-bearing trees. It is the only genus in non-tropical North America of the Annonaceae or custard apple family which has 70 genera and more than 600 species that are mainly tropical (such as the cherimoya fruit of Peru and Ecuador).

*Asimina* is a genus name derived from a French name of "asimin" which was taken from a Native American name for the plant, while the species *triloba* refers to the arrangement of the six petals of the flower that are arranged in two whorls of three. One other species of this genus, *A. parviflora* is found in southern Virginia and south to Florida. *A. triloba* is found in moist, rich woods from Michigan and New York south to Florida and Texas and as far west as Nebraska. It is usually an understory tree averaging 8-12 feet, but can reach heights of 40-50 feet in optimum growth conditions. As an understory species, pawpaw develops a spreading shape, while if grown in the open, it takes on a pyramidal shape. Other common names for the pawpaw (or papaw) are false banana, Michigan banana, and custard apple, referring to the tropical smell and taste of the fruit and to the custard-like consistency of the fruit.

The handsome first green and later maroon or wine-colored flowers of pawpaw bloom in the Northern Virginia area from mid-April to early May. The one and one-half inch flowers are composed of a calyx of three green sepals, a corolla of six petals arranged in two layers (with the three inner smaller petals standing up to form a pointed "crown"), numerous stamens arranged

in a spiral, and 1-15 separate ovaries (carpels), each containing 7-18 ovules which will become seeds if each ovule is fertilized. The stigma of each carpel after 5-10 days becomes shiny, indicating that it is receptive to being pollinated and remains receptive from 4-6 days before turning brown. After the carpels are no longer receptive to pollen, the stamens then release their pollen. This prevents self-fertilization within the same flower. Pollinators are thought to be mainly beetles and flies. As the flower matures, the petals darken from green to pinkish to maroon in color as well as begin to emit an odor of fermenting grapes. One tree can produce up to 500 flowers, but often only about 15 percent of the trees develop fruit and less than 1-2 percent of the flowers develop fruit. One flower can produce 1-4 fruits that are the largest native North American fruits.

The kidney-shaped fruit can range from 3-5 inches in length and turns a brownish-yellow when it is ripe by late September. The fruits may ripen on the tree or after they fall to the forest floor (or one may take them home to ripen in a few days). Unlike the persimmon, the fruit does  
 (continued on next page)



**Pawpaw**  
 (*Asimina triloba*)

(continued from previous page)

not require frost to ripen. The yellow flesh of the fruit has a custard-like consistency and a tropical banana-like flavor. The large, rich brown seeds of the fruit range in number from 5-7 and may be up to one inch in length. Small mammals such as raccoons, opossums, and gray squirrels are attracted to the mature fruits and will eat them, thus acting as seed dispersers.

The opposite, obovate leaves of pawpaw have entire margins and may be up to a foot long. The upper surface of the leaf is smooth and darker green, while the under surface is lighter in color and often covered with rust-colored down. The bark of the slender trunk (even if a tree is tall, its trunk seldom exceeds six inches in diameter) is dark brown with ashen blotches in shallow, irregular fissures. The buds of twigs are not covered by bud scales, but rather by rust-colored hairs. Stolens (underground horizontal stems) are sent out from older stems of pawpaws and form separate trees that are genetically identical (a type of cloning) and that are all interconnected underground.

The fruits of pawpaw are highly favored by many tribes of Native Americans and there is evidence that some tribes even planted seeds. They also used the fibrous inner bark of pawpaw

to make rope, string, fish nets, even fiber cloth. Early pioneers used the bark to make fish stringers. Pioneers as well as modern day natural food enthusiasts also prized the fruit. Pioneers often stored pawpaw fruits in oats to extend their edibility range. The fruit can be eaten directly as is or made into custard, pudding, marmalade, pies, or even ice cream. Ripe pawpaws must be used in a short time or the odor may become permeating and overpowering if the fruit is stored indoors.

Check for ripening fruits early this fall. Hopefully, you will beat a squirrel or raccoon in finding the fruit at just the right stage of ripeness. The delightful flavor of the fruit will be well worth the effort!

## November 19 Meeting

Mark your calendar now for a program on witch hazel, to be presented by Chris Strand of Green Spring Gardens Park at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. VNPS has declared witch hazel as the 2002 Wildflower of the Year. Green Spring Gardens is renowned for its extensive witch hazel collection.

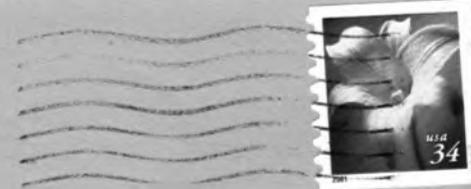
### PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society  
PO Box 83, Manassas, VA 20108-0083



exp. 10/01

Nancy Arrington  
8388 Briarmont Lane  
Manassas, VA 20111



 Annual Meeting: 1p.m., Sunday, Sept. 16, at the home of Marie and Paul Davis